

Manners

The Formation of Christlike Conduct

THE 10 M'S OF LEADERSHIP FORMATION • BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Foundational Scriptures

Philippians 2:1-11 • Ephesians 4:29-32 • Colossians 4:5-6
2 Timothy 2:24-26 • Galatians 5:22-23 • Titus 2:7-8

We have been teaching on the third pillar of sonship. Under authority, we have included the 10 M's.

Authority Represents a King

Do not think about authority only as something you possess. Think about authority in terms of someone you represent. What gives a police officer authority? The badge, the uniform, and the government - city, state, or federal.

The authority is not in the individual alone. It is in the government the officer represents. In the same way, our authority is not self-generated. It flows from the King we represent.

How you treat people is part of your theology.

One of the greatest indicators of spiritual maturity is how we treat people. The kingdom of God is revealed through our gifts and through our conduct. Many believers have developed spiritual gifts, especially in Pentecostal and charismatic circles, but have neglected spiritual manners.

The Holy Spirit is interested in what flows through us and in what comes out of us.

“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

Matthew 12:34

Our speech, attitudes, responses, and treatment of people are windows into the condition of our hearts.

Growth Reveals Hearts

Manners are not superficial. They are spiritual.

This is a growing church. God is growing the church, and He is growing us! One of the things about growth is that it reveals hearts. When new people arrive or previous members return, the hearts of those who have been here are revealed.

When God increases influence, responsibility, opportunity, blessing, people, and resources, He also reveals motives, attitudes, insecurities, fears, pride, jealousy, and love. Growth does more than create things; it exposes them.

Pressure reveals character. Growth reveals hearts.

Remember the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. We often focus on the son who went into a far country, but what about the son who stayed home? How you treat the lost and the restored reveals your heart.

READ: [Luke 15:28-32](#)

What Are Kingdom Manners?

Kingdom manners are the Christlike attitudes, behaviors, speech, and relational conduct that reveal the nature of the Father. This goes beyond learning etiquette; it is learning Christ.

“But you have not so learned Christ.” [Ephesians 4:20](#)

It goes beyond learning doctrine to learning a person: CHRIST. It is the assimilation, absorption, and integration, by the Holy Spirit, of Christ’s attitude, disposition, behavior, speech, and relational conduct into my life.

Why Do Manners Matter?

People often experience Christ before they understand doctrine. They encounter Him through **kindness, patience, humility, gentleness, honor, forgiveness, and compassion.**

The strongest leaders are the gentlest, because strength under control is meekness. Jesus described Himself as “gentle and lowly in heart.” The One with all authority possessed perfect gentleness.

Our manners become the first sermon many people ever hear.

How we treat people either confirms or contradicts what we preach. A gifted leader with poor manners eventually weakens his or her own message. Character always interprets communication.

The Spirit Forms Our Conduct

From reaction to a formed response

The Holy Spirit continually shapes our responses. Reaction comes from the flesh; response comes from formation. Immature people react; mature sons respond. The Holy Spirit is forming what we believe and how we behave.

“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” **Matthew 12:34**

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification...”

Ephesians 4:29

Words reveal formation.

A new member once told me: “Pastor, I joined this church because of you and First Lady, and your teaching. But I often leave as soon as you give the benediction because I don’t want to be a part of any church mess, church gossip, or shenanigans. The reason I stopped going to my last church was because some mess was always going on.”

“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” **Colossians 4:5-6**

“Do all things without complaining and disputing...” **Philippians 2:14**

The Holy Spirit is actively engaged in forming and shaping my conduct. This requires me to yield and submit to the work of the Spirit.

The Fruit of the Spirit

Do you know what the fruit of the Spirit is? These qualities are kingdom manners.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”

Galatians 5:22-23

Most of these qualities are relational. They describe how we interact with and treat people. Kingdom manners are cultivated. The more we abide in Christ and yield to the Spirit’s work, the more Christ’s manners become ours.

The fruit of the Spirit is the culture of the kingdom made visible. People experience that culture when the fruit of the Spirit is produced in our lives.

Seeing Heaven's Value

Seeing and treating people according to Heaven's value

Kingdom manners create a culture of honor. Within a culture of honor - a sonship culture - we see the image of God in each other. Honor listens, prefers others, and reflects the Father's heart.

People should feel safe growing, developing, and being disciplined in a house where kingdom manners are practiced. Mature sons speak about Christ and demonstrate Him.

STUDY: Romans 12:10 • 1 Peter 2:17 • Philippians 2:3-4
1 Timothy 5:17 • Ephesians 6:2 • 1 Corinthians 12:22-26

What Is Honor?

The biblical idea of honor carries the sense of value, worth, esteem, and recognition. To honor something is to treat it as weighty.

Honor is recognizing God-given value and responding to it appropriately.

What you value, you honor. The spirit of honor affects your perception. One of the quickest ways to dishonor someone is to see them after the flesh instead of the Spirit.

The Danger of Familiarity

Nazareth dishonored Christ. They knew His occupation, family, and hometown. "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country." **Mark 6:1-6**

The old proverb says, "Familiarity breeds contempt." Knowing someone very well can cause you to lose respect, lose interest, or take that person for granted. The closer and longer you are near a person, the more you see their flaws.

Familiarity can become an enemy of honor when what we know naturally prevents us from recognizing what God has placed spiritually.

Contempt is internal dishonor: a strong feeling of dislike and a lack of respect for someone or something.

When Value Is Diminished

Dishonor begins in the heart before it appears in the mouth.

Dishonor appears as contempt, familiarity, jealousy, presumption, refusal to celebrate, public humiliation, or treating what God values as common.

Dishonor Treats As...

Common what God calls valuable.

Insignificant what God has given significance.

Disposable what God says should be treasured.

Insecurity and jealousy lead to dishonor. Many people struggle to honor others because they feel that honoring someone else will take something from them. The true character of a man is seen when he can honor another man. The true character of a woman is seen when she can honor another woman.

Michal Dishonored David

READ: 2 Samuel 6:16-23

Michal “despised him in her heart.” Notice that the dishonor existed before she spoke. It started internally. Then it came through her mouth as sarcasm: “How glorious was the king of Israel today...”

Contempt is internal dishonor. Sarcasm can give that dishonor a voice.

Contempt is expressed through sarcasm, name-calling, sneering, eye-rolling, and mockery. Dr. John Gottman, relationship expert and author of *The Seven Principles of Making Marriage Work*, identifies contempt as the single greatest predictor of divorce.

Our tone often reveals what our heart has already decided about another person. Dishonor is a heart condition.

The Progression of Dishonor

Heart → Perception → Speech → Conduct → Culture

A Culture for the Whole House

A growing house requires an expanding culture of honor.

1. Honor Sees

Honor sees people differently. A culture of honor trains us to look beyond appearance, social standing, education, wealth, age, usefulness, gifting, and personality.

2. Honor Recognizes Difference Without Assigning Inferiority

“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you.’” **1 Corinthians 12:21**

“On these we bestow greater honor...” **1 Corinthians 12:23**

The intercessor, the person cleaning the building, the elderly, the new believer, children, and people who work behind the scenes are indispensable.

3. Honor Can Disagree Without Becoming Dishonorable

A person has matured when they can disagree with you without devaluing you.

4. Honor Is Revealed in How We Treat People Who Cannot Advance Us

How do you treat people who can do absolutely nothing for you?

5. Honor Creates Room for Others

“In honor giving preference to one another.” **Romans 12:10**

Honor does not have to occupy every seat. Honor does not become threatened when someone else shines.

Honor says, “There is room at the table for you.”

Honor is the culture of the whole house.

Formation in Everyday Life

How the Holy Spirit forms manners

God teaches manners through people. He allows criticism, misunderstanding, disagreements, offense, difficult personalities, waiting, and inconvenience. Why? Because pressure reveals what is still living inside us.

God allows difficult people to reveal us as well as to change them. Sometimes the greatest test of maturity is how we answer what someone says to us.

Jesus Is Our Perfect Example

He is the pattern man. No one demonstrated kingdom manners like Jesus.

When misunderstood, He remained patient.

When falsely accused, He remained silent.

When rejected, He continued loving.

When betrayed, He still washed feet.

When crucified, He prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

The cross reveals the highest expression of kingdom manners.

The Outward Expression of Inward Formation

Kingdom manners are the outward expression of inward formation. As Christ is formed within us, His humility, gentleness, patience, honor, and love become visible in the way we speak, serve, correct, and relate to others.

The world often hears our conduct before it hears our message. Mature sons seek to proclaim Christ and to display His character in every relationship.